

Senate File 309 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 309

BY T. TAYLOR

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to unemployment compensation benefits and
2 department-approved training.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 96.4, subsection 3, Code 2019, is amended
2 to read as follows:

3 3. The individual is able to work, is available for
4 work, and is earnestly and actively seeking work. This
5 subsection is waived if the individual is deemed partially
6 unemployed, while employed at the individual's regular job,
7 as defined in [section 96.19, subsection 38](#), paragraph "b",
8 subparagraph (1), or temporarily unemployed as defined in
9 [section 96.19, subsection 38, paragraph "c"](#), or participating
10 in department-approved training pursuant to section 96.5A.
11 The work search requirements of [this subsection](#) and the
12 disqualification requirement for failure to apply for, or
13 to accept suitable work of [section 96.5, subsection 3](#), are
14 waived if the individual is not disqualified for benefits under
15 [section 96.5, subsection 1, paragraph "h"](#).

16 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 96.5A Department-approved training.

17 1. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise
18 requires:

19 a. "*Apprenticeship program*" means the same as defined in
20 section 15B.2.

21 b. "*Postsecondary institution*" means an institution of
22 higher learning under the control of the state board of
23 regents, a community college established under chapter 260C, or
24 an accredited private institution as defined in section 261.9.

25 2. An individual shall be exempt from the requirements of
26 being available for work and actively seeking work pursuant to
27 [section 96.4, subsection 3](#), if the individual is participating
28 in department-approved training through a class at a
29 postsecondary institution or through an apprenticeship program.

30 3. To be eligible for an exemption, an individual must apply
31 to the department and provide all of the following information:

32 a. The name of the postsecondary institution or the
33 apprenticeship program.

34 b. The course of study or the focus of the apprenticeship
35 program.

1 *c.* The start and end dates of the course of study or
2 apprenticeship program.

3 *d.* The approximate class or apprenticeship schedule.

4 e. The occupation or industry for which the course of
5 study or apprenticeship maintains or improves the individual's
6 skills.

7 4. If the exemption is approved by the department, unless
8 the individual is participating in an apprenticeship program,
9 the training must be completed in one hundred and four weeks
10 or less.

11 5. If the exemption is approved by the department, an
12 individual must maintain satisfactory progress in the approved
13 training, and must file a weekly claim pursuant to section
14 96.6, subsection 1, to receive benefits while attending the
15 approved training.

16 6. To remain eligible for benefits after completion of
17 department-approved training, an individual must be able to
18 work, available for work, and actively seeking work pursuant
19 to section 96.4, subsection 3.

20 7. The director shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A as
21 necessary to administer this section.

22 EXPLANATION

23 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
24 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

25 This bill relates to unemployment compensation benefits and
26 department-approved training.

27 The bill provides that an individual who is eligible to
28 receive unemployment benefits shall be granted an exemption
29 from the requirements that the individual be available for work
30 and actively seeking work, if the individual is participating
31 in department-approved training at a postsecondary institution
32 or is participating in an apprenticeship program.

33 To be eligible for an exemption, an individual must apply
34 to the department of workforce development and provide the
35 name of the postsecondary institution or apprenticeship

1 program, the course of study or the focus of the apprenticeship
2 program, the start date and end dates of the course of study or
3 apprenticeship program, the class or apprenticeship schedule,
4 and the occupation or industry for which the course of study or
5 apprenticeship maintains or improves the individual's skills.

6 If an exemption is approved, an individual must maintain
7 satisfactory progress in the approved training and must
8 continue to file a weekly claim for benefits while attending
9 the training. The training must be completed in 104 weeks
10 or less, unless the individual is participating in an
11 apprenticeship program. To remain eligible for unemployment
12 benefits after completing training, the individual must be able
13 to work, available for work, and actively seeking work.